

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



For Immediate Release
June 28, 2005

Contact: Gregg W. Bortz
610-861-9734 or (cell) 202-222-5118

Congressman Dent and Colleagues Roll Out New Caucus
to Advance Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology
Development

***Hydrogen economy will bring environmental, economic and
international benefits, members say***

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 28) — Surrounded by hydrogen-powered motorcycles, a military truck, van and mock fueling station, members of the newly formed House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus said Tuesday that an “End Dependence Day” is at hand for weaning the nation away from foreign sources of oil.

The four original organizers of the bipartisan coalition are Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15), Rep. Bob Inglis (SC-04), Rep. John Larson (CT-01), and Rep. Albert Wynn (MD-04). ([Click here to see full list of members.](#))

Dent, (R-PA), noted hydrogen is one of the most plentiful elements on Earth. “It is available now and the transition to hydrogen can happen faster than we think,” he said.

“Fortunately, we’re not starting from scratch when we develop a hydrogen infrastructure,” Dent said. “The most important fact about hydrogen is that it’s here and now, not in some distant future.”

Inglis (R-SC) agreed that the technology is “not science fiction,” and America’s has an opportunity to move forward now.

“Sputnik surprised us and we were in a race to the moon,” said Inglis (R-SC). “Gas at \$3 a gallon should not surprise us. When that happens, we have no alternative fuel source.”

The coalition was formed to promote hydrogen research and development as a safe, reliable, abundant and clean source of energy.

“When oil is \$60 a barrel, it’s time to take the bull by the horns, wean the U.S. off of foreign oil, and push towards a cleaner, more efficient, hydrogen economy,” said Wynn, (D-MD), a caucus founder. “This bipartisan caucus will be on the forefront of transforming the U.S. energy economy from oil to hydrogen-based.”

Moving to the hydrogen economy “embraces the environment, the economy, and foreign policy,” said Rep. John Larson (D-CT). “The technology hurdle we face today is far less than the one President Kennedy faced with the space race. If we can fly to the moon, then we can use hydrogen to get people back and forth to work.”

“Government’s role in clearing the path is essential, just as government involvement was necessary to the construction of pipelines, refineries and other infrastructure during the petroleum era,” Dent said.

The press conference featured a mock hydrogen fueling station by Air Products Inc., a hydrogen-powered minivan by General Motors and a military style hydrogen truck. Dent rode down South Capitol Street on a hydrogen-powered ENV motorcycle developed by Intelligent Energy of the United Kingdom which has begun selling the motorcycles in California.

Among some of the goals of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus are:

- Advocate full funding of the Department of Energy’s hydrogen programs, including existing demonstration programs.
- Fund basic science research to discover the breakthroughs needed for affordable hydrogen and fuel cell technology.
- Promote near-term use of best practices rather than premature standards that may quickly become obsolete.
- Advocate keeping hydrogen affordable and promoting means of making it widely available.
- Promote hydrogen as a safe, reliable, abundant and clean fuel.

The Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Caucus is a bi-partisan effort of more than 30 members who seek to end America’s dependence on foreign sources of energy. Members include:

Founding Members:

Rep. Charles Dent (PA-15)
Rep. Bob Inglis (SC-04)
Rep. John Larson (CT-01)
Rep. Albert Wynn (MD-04)

Members as of June 28, 2005

Rep. John Shimkus (IL-19)
Rep. Vernon Ehlers (MI-03)
Rep. Joe Schwarz (MI-07)
Rep. Michael T. McCaul (TX-10)
Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC-01)
Rep. Michael McNulty (NY-21)
Rep. Dave Weldon (FL-15)
Rep. Henry Brown (SC-01)
Rep. John Doolittle (CA-04)
Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (PA-08)
Rep. Don Sherwood (PA-10)
Rep. Phil English (PA-03)
Rep. Henry Brown (SC-01)
Rep. Dave Weldon (FL-15)
Rep. Gresham Barrett (SC-03)
Rep. Buck McKeon (CA-25)
Rep. John Spratt (SC-05)
Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02)
Rep. Jane Harman (CA-36)
Rep. Mary Bono (CA-45)
Rep. Zach Wamp (TN-03)
Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (NY-24)
Rep. Todd Russell Platts (PA-19)
Rep. Michael F. Doyle (PA-14)
Rep. John B. Shadegg (AZ-03)
Rep. Rob Simmons (CT-02)
Rep. Tim Murphy (PA-18)
Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-44)
Rep. Jim Gerlach (PA-06)
Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski (PA-11)
Rep. James Clyburn (SC-06)
Rep. Tim Holden (PA-17)

###